

CHANGE IN LOBBIES

How the Work was Done in the Older Days.

"WINE, WOMEN AND SONG"

CONVENIENT FORMS OF GAMBLING—MONEY MEANT TO BE LOST BY SHREWD LOBBYISTS—NOW THE BUREAU DOES THE BUSINESS.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 4.—"What is to be done with the lobby?" is a question that will demand serious consideration at the hands of the next Congress. Styles in lobbying have changed greatly in the past forty years. At the time of the land grant railroads, when whiskey ring, star route, Louisiana lottery and other craft with rich booty, the lobby was equipped with money and entertained lavishly. "Wine women and song," were utilized freely, though, truth to tell not much stress was lavished on "song." Stocks and bonds and tips on the market were passed around freely and in some instances real money actually changed hands. But things are different now, and the old style of lobbying is disappearing. The old fashioned lobbyist is gone. The last of the great ones disappeared when McKay died. Of course there is still some entertaining done. Perry Belmont, Henry T. Oxnard and several others keep up establishments here. Mr. Belmont can scarcely be called a lobbyist, in the usual acceptance of the term, for the only bill before Congress in which he is apparently interested is one to provide publicity for all national campaign contributions. There was no beet sugar legislation before Congress this winter further than the Deceased Philippine Tariff bill, so Mr. Oxnard has not been much in evidence. These gentlemen, and others, however, utilize entertaining for lobbying purposes different from the old lobbyists, for they are not employed as lobbyists but are only concerned with matters of personal interest. Most of the entertaining, except by paid lobbyists is at the hotels, and takes the form of recherche dinner parties.

The gradual elimination of gambling in Congressional circles has also a bearing on the situation. Formerly lobbyists sometimes thought it advantageous to lose money at the card table to Senators and members, or the latter being pressed for funds at cards, faro or roulette, would "borrow" from the accommodating lobbyist. But the regular gambling houses are all closed, and faro and roulette are dead. Only one such establishment is within the reach of the city, and that is run very quietly in an out of the way place. At the same time there are several poker clubs frequented more or less by some members of Congress. Of these the one having the largest Congressional clientele is opposite the Arlington hotel. They are all "table stake" games as a rule, but \$2 and \$5 or even \$10 limit are often played. Some Congressmen who have houses or adequate rooms give poker parties, at which the play runs high. But, as a rule, such games are confined principally to the Congressional circle, and when a "lobbyist" gets in he generally plays hard to win. Probably the last attempt to pass money in this manner was when Charley Clark was playing in a game with a Senator on the Committee considering his father's case. The Senator dropped to his game and declined to win, so that Clark's money went to others. A semi-professional gambler in that game got ahead \$2,500 that night.

But the large games were practically stopped when John Chamberlain died. In those days a winning or losing of \$5,000 or \$10,000 attracted little attention and Senators and Members frequently met at Chamberlain's to play for high stakes. Many years ago in the latter '70s and early as '80s, it was a common sight to see Senators and Members at the public gaming tables, the gambling houses being wide open then.

But has been said, the style has changed. There are too many people on the watch-tower. If a lobbyist should blow in here with even a beggarly ten thousand dollars to spend, in these days, the news would be all over town and he would be approached by a hundred professionals. The expenditure of a hundred thousand would make a noise like the bursting of the treasury vaults. Subsequently other methods are in vogue. The first thing a wise man or corporation in-

terested in legislation does now-a-days is to secure a Washington representative. He may be an attorney or not, but he is some one with familiar with the business on hand and with Congressional and Departmental methods. These men keep track of legislation in which their clients are interested and make a specialty of hearings before Congressional Committees. There is a great art in properly managing such hearings, to see that the witnesses say what they have to say properly, to rush the hearings or drag them out as the case may be. There was a time when private interviews with the chairman or a few leading members was all that was necessary. Now, what is said in committee is most important. Usually every word is taken down and the record printed and instead of only a handful of men knowing what arguments were used the record is open to the world. Consequently the proper handling of hearings is of great importance. Next comes the information service, which consists of keeping track of bills introduced, items in appropriation bills, and other details, including the sounding of members on various propositions. This service is best performed through the regular bureaus, for they are equipped with men who, making a specialty of the work, know the ropes. Many legislative agents depend on their own resources but the most satisfactory results come through the regular bureaus.

Finally comes the "press agent," who is becoming rare and more im-

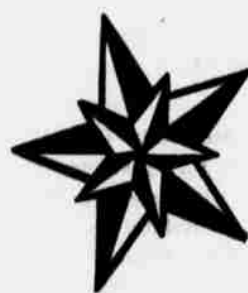
portant. From time to time an attempt is made to sensationally exploit this business. As a matter of fact the "press agent" in Washington is the most harmless of creatures. The eyes of two hundred active and alert newspaper correspondents are on him to say nothing of a host of legislators. But to return to the general subject. Representative Lamar has withdrawn his lobbying bill and introduced another, which deals directly with the railroads. It was pointed out in this correspondence recently that while Mr. Lamar's bill was very worthy it covered too broad a ground for the general good. The objections there stated impressed Mr. Lamar to such an extent that he publicly asked consent of the House to withdraw the bill and substitute another. There seems to be absolutely no good reason why legislative agents should not be required to register their names and business. The Press Gallery rules forbid correspondents having entree to the gallery from being interested in legislation but the rules are often violated. Doubtless a law requiring lobbyists to register would be violated but a penalty could be provided and the violators punished while the Press gallery is compelled to depend solely on honor. The movement to regulate "lobbying" will be supported by all honest legislative agents, and the others need not count.

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BLAMES AGITATION.

Railroad Officials Dislike Movement Against Corporations.

KANSAS CITY, March 4.—L. F. Loree, chairman of the executive committee of the Kansas City Southern Railway in an interview printed to day said:

"The stringent money market made so by agitation against corporate interests may entail serious consequences on the Great Southwest which is developing three times faster than any other part of the country and needs all the capital it can get. It would be hard to borrow 98 cents today on a gold dollar in New York at 7 per cent."

"What has caused the money stringency?" was asked.

"Agitation against corporate interests," he replied.

"That seems to be responsible, there is no other cause, we are prosperous, very prosperous, we have plen-

ty but the agitation seems to be widespread.

GOMPERS ACCUSED.

Labor Leader Said To Have Been Dilatory in the Moyer Matter

NEW YORK, March 4.—Samuel Gompers, attended the meeting of the Central Federated Union yesterday and had a verbal encounter with delegate Abrahams. Abrahams charged that both Mr. Gompers and the executive committee of the American Federation of Labor were lukewarm about the Moyer-Heywood-Pettibone question. Mr. Gompers said in reply: "A delegate has charged that we are dilatory in not taking the matter up. I want to tell the delegate who spoke just now that goading and baiting the officers of the American Federation of Labor will not influence them in any way. I have not stood on soap boxes in the street and shouted this affair about, but I have done all that could be done and will do more when the proper time comes, I have repeatedly denounced the arrests as an outrage both by tongue and pen."

WORKED LIKE A CHARM.

Mr. D. N. Walker, editor of that spicy journal, the Enterprise, Louisa, Va., says: "I ran a nail into my foot last week and at once applied Bucklen's Arnica Salve. No inflammation followed: The salve simply healed the wound." Heals every sore, burn and skin disease. Guaranteed at Chas. Rogers, Druggist. 25c.